

REMARKS

Claims 23-75 are currently pending. All claims are currently rejected.

Claims 23-24, 26, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Leonard Farias' research report entitled *Comparison Study of Polymer Research Finish to a Conventional Resin System: A Laundering Study*. Specifically, the Examiner references a paragraph at the very end of the Farias report, which states (in its entirety) "The optimum resin/softener system **may** require the application of the resin to one side of the fabric (back) and the application of softener/lubricant(s) to the opposite side (face) of the fabric in order to produce a quality value added product with respect to color retention and resistance to frosting." (emphasis added) As noted in the Farias article, p. 2, the "purpose of this project is to compare the performance of a specialty polymer finish used in conjunction with a low formaldehyde resin to a conventional resin/softener system for 100% cotton twill bottom weight fabric." The Objective is further defined as follows: "The overall aim is to produce a 100% cotton wrinkle free product that will perform better than many products currently on the market."

Independent Claim 23 (from which claims 24, 26 and 29 depend) recites a cellulosic-fiber containing fabric having first and second faces, with the fabric having a softener substantially isolated on its first face and a durable-press resin substantially isolated on its second face. The Examiner maintains that Farias teaches this combination of characteristics. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As noted, Farias contains one sentence at the end of his report hypothesizing that an optimized system "**may require the application of** the resin to one side of the fabric (back) and **the application of** softener/lubricant(s) to the opposite side (face) of the fabric." (emphasis added.) Nowhere does Farias disclose or even suggest that these chemistries are substantially *isolated* on the fabric faces, nor does Farias at any point enable anyone to do such isolation. In fact, Farias does not even explain how the chemistries are to be applied to the respective surfaces of the fabric, or even show how that would achieve a successful result. In fact, all Farias states is a hypothesis that application from opposite sides MAY achieve an optimum solution, though he never demonstrates that it does. Moreover, he does not teach how to perform that to any extent, much less to an extent that would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to perform such a process. The inventors of the instant invention did not simply take a resin and apply it to one surface and a softener/lubricant and apply it to the opposite surface (the most that Farias arguably even describes) and achieve a successful result. On the contrary, Applicant found that specific process steps had to be controlled to

achieve the claimed fabric having the respective chemistries substantially isolated on the respective surfaces. For example, the inventors found that by applying the chemistries substantially simultaneously (as described on p. 4, line 13 of the specification), isolation of the chemistries was facilitated. In addition, the application technique had to be selected to facilitate substantial isolation of the chemistries. For example, as illustrated in Sample C on p. 11 of the application, a dual sided foamer was utilized using a 20% wet pick up on one side vs. a 12% wet pick up on the opposite side. Therefore, it is maintained that Farias fails to disclose or suggest substantial isolation of the chemistries as claimed by the Applicant, and that the Examiner is improperly presuming isolation would result from a single statement by Farias regarding applying chemistries to opposite surfaces. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 30-31 were also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson (US 3,770,489). Richardson teaches a method for rendering cellulose-based fabrics wrinkle resistant by impregnating the fibers of the fabric with a polymer builder such as a melamine resin, polymerizing the polymer and drying the fabric, then depositing a film of silicone polymer on the fabric. Although Richardson describes that the resin is impregnating through the whole fabric, the Examiner has taken the position that the Richardson resin is actually the same thing as the softener of Applicant's claims, and the silicone film is the same thing as the durable press resin of Applicant's claims. Furthermore, although Richardson fails to disclose or suggest the substantial isolation of a durable press resin on only one surface of the fabric, that in fact that is achieved by way of the silicone film. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Richardson does not even teach isolation of his film, much less the substantial isolation of a durable-press resin on only one surface of a fabric. As noted above, Richardson's durable press resin is actually impregnated through the entire fabric, and thus Richardson teaches away from the instant invention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

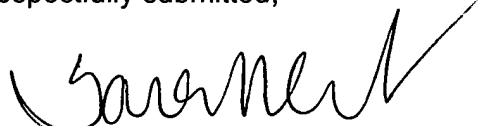
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find that any issues remain outstanding following consideration of this Response, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned in the interest of resolving such matters in an expedient manner.

Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



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